



2017 United Thank Offering Seminarian and Young Adult Grant Awards

Seminarian Grant Awards

A Good and Joyful Thing: Meaningful Eucharistic Liturgies for Children and Families

Berkeley Divinity School at Yale

\$1,210

Emily J. Garcia

Diocese of Massachusetts

The goal of *A Good and Joyful Thing* is to facilitate young children's involvement in Episcopal Church worship in a way that also teaches them about God. This project aims to:

1. Produce two full liturgies for Holy Eucharist with musical selections and new Eucharistic prayers that are:
 - fully in accord with the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer;
 - informed by developmental psychology, so they are meaningful and accessible for ages 3-10; and
 - informed by liturgical theology, so they are meaningful and accessible for teen and adult family members.
2. Produce complementary practical suggestions/visual aids. These will each have adaptations so that they could be fitted to different spaces, skill-sets, and sensibilities.
3. Create a guide for priests with theological reflection on word and song choices.
4. Create materials for parents to enrich their experience of the liturgy, with simple suggestions for how to "go deeper" in a family setting through reflection, Bible reading, prayer for parents, and developmentally appropriate plans for children.

The Episcopal Church Resource Center on Second Life

Berkeley Divinity School at Yale

\$2,500

Cheryl McFaddin

Diocese of East Carolina

This grant would fund the creation a virtual Episcopal Church Resource Center for the popular online world Second Life. Second Life is a vast, evolving community in which users connect and interact with people and organizations unique to Second Life, as well as with avatars of real-world entities. Many companies, brands, and other real-world organizations have an established presence in Second Life. The community currently features a virtual Anglican Cathedral but lacks many other resources for learning about The Episcopal Church and Anglicanism. This project would create a virtual welcome center/library of resources for people to discover and explore topics related to The Episcopal Church.

Journey Together at the Abundant Table Farm (JT@theAT)

Episcopal Divinity School

\$2,500

Lisa Devine

Diocese of Los Angeles

JT@theAT will be a farm-based community for children of all ages at the Abundant Table Farm in Camarillo, California. It is meant to reach out to those without a church affiliation and to meet the need of small churches needing a “critical mass” of young people for their youth groups and Sunday schools. Through joyful connection on the farm with land, food, neighbor, and God, young people will be supported in becoming grateful, compassionate, and justice-oriented. A typical session will be structured in the following way: Youth arrive and begin weeding a row together. They then glean their snack from the field and come together in gratitude for the food they are eating, which started as a tiny seed. The community then divides into age groups for presentation, reflection, and activities based on a foundational scripture story. Each person harvests produce for his or her family dinner and then returns to the large group for a harvest blessing.

Shared Struggles; Collective Liberation: A Holy Land Pilgrimage

The School of Theology at the University of the South

\$1,997.97

Kevin-Antonio Smallwood

Diocese of Western Massachusetts

This pilgrimage for seminarians with Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the Palestine-Israel Network will provide a first-hand experience of understanding of the pursuit of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and the reconciliation that is vital to the process. We are not striving to bring radical change to this area in the 10 days we journey about; rather, we hope to gain a holistic understanding of the history, current state, and future of a peaceful Holy Land. This knowledge will not only affect our future work for peace with Israelis and Palestinians, but will also be extended to opportunities for peace and reconciliation within our current communities and nation. Educational offerings on what we learned will be shared when we return.

Equipping Episcopal Seminarians to Nourish Children Spiritually through Godly Play

Seminary of the Southwest

\$2,400

Reagan Gonzalez

Diocese of Montana

Godly Play is a Montessori-based children’s theological program developed over four decades by the Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman. Godly Play uses an imaginative and creative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance. While modeling the Christian worship life, it provides the language for participants to make deep personal theological understandings. Godly Play focuses on the use of sacred story, silence, wonder, and play as means for worship and spiritual reflection. This project would include the purchase of a variety of Godly Play stories, the organizing of a dedicated space, and the training of seminarians in the curriculum. Seminarians will be invited to participate, and after being trained, they will be put on a children’s chaplain rotation to facilitate sessions during our weekly Thursday community Eucharist. This project will both equip future clergy with tools to engage the young Christians in their congregations and provide quality Christian formation to the children and families of the seminary community.

Capturing the Beauty Way, Hozho

Virginia Theological Seminary

\$2,500

Leon Sampson

Navajoland Area Mission

The grant will provide for the necessary documentation equipment to take high-quality photos and video footage of environmental programs that currently impact both Virginia Theological Seminary and the Navajoland Area Mission. Our goal is to create videos to support seminarians as they take what they have learned from our garden/farm project here at VTS into their communities once they graduate. I also plan to take the equipment home to start creating photo and video footage of programs like the Blue Corn Program, the sustainable Bee Programs, and the Shima' Navajo Land Soap Programs in order to better share those stories, inspire participation, and encourage others to work on self-sustainability and environmental stewardship opportunities in their communities.

If You Really Knew Me: A Series of Conversations Tilted Towards Reconciliation

Virginia Theological Seminary

\$2,500

Kathleen Walker

Diocese of Southeast Florida

For the last several months, the administration and students of VTS have been exploring opportunities for racial reconciliation after concerns were raised during the prior academic year. After many meetings and much discussion, there is now a commitment on all sides to move towards peace and reconciliation. This grant will keep the momentum going and will permit the newly organized Seminarians of Color Union to sponsor a series of conversations with leaders from the presiding bishop's staff and other organizations who could be formidable and informative sources about race and race relations to the VTS community. There is an urgent need to add diverse voices to the conversation on campus, where there are a few minority faculty members and even fewer minorities in the administration. A series of conversations would permit the community to participate in dialogues repeatedly, which will prove beneficial. As a follow-up, a social media vehicle would be established to keep the lines of communication open.

Young Adult Grant Awards

Evangelism Intern to the University of Arkansas

Samantha Haycock

Diocese of Arkansas

\$2,500

This grant will allow St. Martin's Episcopal University Center at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville to hire a student intern to improve evangelism to the university population. This intern would be able to expand our reach, offerings, and impact. As we raise our visibility on campus, our hope is to be able to draw more students, faculty, and alumni into community, with an increased presence on campus, in Fayetteville, and online. As we grow our ministry, we will also be able to expand the social justice initiatives that the ministry is able to sponsor and partner with.

Cheii's Web Development

Ryan Sam

Navajoland Area Mission

\$2,330.07

Cheii's Web Development seeks to provide a valuable resource to The Episcopal Church as well as the Navajo people in several ways. The word *Cheii* comes from the Navajo word meaning *grandfather*. Through the teaching and storytelling of our Navajo grandfathers, we learn how to be respectful toward others as well as toward nature. This grant will allow us to start a website design business to help tell the story of local Navajo businesses and congregations in The Episcopal Church. Cheii's Web Development consists of four highly motivated and trained web developers; we are all Navajo and want to bring additional jobs to our community. The unemployment rate on the Navajo Nation is 44%. We intend to help bring unemployment down by teaching web development to Navajo individuals who otherwise have no chance of learning web-based skills on the reservation. The demand for individuals who know how to read, write, and develop code is high, and opportunities abound.

The Episcopal Church Stands with Standing Rock

Patrick Kelly

Diocese of North Dakota

\$2,500

The project is to create and sell shirts that will show support for the Standing Rock Reservation from The Episcopal Church in order to provide long-term financial support for the Tiny House Community at St. James' Episcopal Church in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. These shirts will show The Episcopal Church's support of Standing Rock, demonstrate that social justice movements also belong in the Church, and assist in the young adult formation for several college-age men. The money raised will go toward providing the finances for creating and strengthening the fellowship within the Tiny House Community (2015 UTO Grant), which houses young men from the Standing Rock Reservation while they attend college. These funds will be used for intentional mentoring of the young men who will be living in the Tiny Houses, and will include meals cooked and eaten together, educational visits to historic sights that underscore the importance of the history of the young men's ancestors, meetings with influential people in the students' fields of study to learn what their futures could hold, and other aspects of fellowship building and mentoring during the young men's time in the Tiny House Community.

Young Adult Leadership Development – Union of Black Episcopalians

Darius Jenkins

Diocese of Southern Ohio

\$2,500

The goal of this program is to host a leadership retreat to nourish and enhance the faith of young adults of color as well as to magnify the young adult voice in The Episcopal Church during this digital age. We believe this is done in many ways, but most importantly through activism and faith. The individual development of our voices is critical. Having the ability to draw from resources presented in a retreat setting and geared toward current issues in the Church and society will allow us that growth. Part of the vision is to raise awareness within young adults of African descent about the discernment process for ordination; to be a community of vigilance and action regarding matters of injustice, especially the effects of racism in the Church and society; and to create a systematic approach of ensuring that Black congregations are sustainable and viable within their communities.